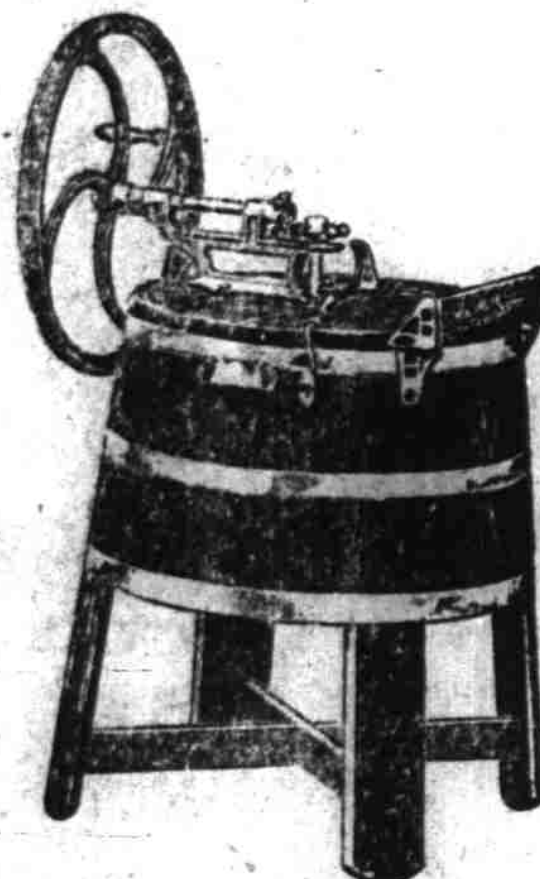


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TAFT'S NOMINATION AT CHICAGO NOT STOLEN; FIGURES OF CONVENTION BATTLE GIVE LIE TO IT

Roosevelt's Cry of "Theft" Shown To Be Founded on Wilful Exaggeration and Misrepresentation—Colonel's Men in Bad Faith—Each Contest Was Considered

MANY CONTESTS WERE
"FAKED" ON PURPOSE

Lengthy Statement Disproves
Teddy's Wild Charges in Detail

WASHINGTON, July 28.—A statement approved by President Taft defending his nomination by the Chicago convention was made public at the contest before the Republican National Committee and the credentials committee of the convention, and asserts that each contest was settled logically upon its merits. The statement was submitted to the Cabinet at a recent meeting and received the approval of the President's official family.

The statement, which is a lengthy document of 144 printed pages, is a detailed denial of the charge that the renomination of President Taft was accomplished by the seating of fraudulently elected delegates to the convention. It takes up individually the 238 contests instituted by the Roosevelt forces against Taft delegates who were seated and presents evidence in each of these cases to show that the Taft delegates were regularly elected.

Each Contest Considered.
A resume of the statement prepared by Charles D. Hilles, formerly President Taft's secretary and now chairman of the Republican National Committee, takes up each contest briefly. This resume opens with the declaration that the Roosevelt contests, as originally filed before the National Committee, were not instituted in good faith.

"The total number of delegates summoned to the convention," says the resume, "was 1078, with 540 necessary to a choice. Taft had 561 votes on the first and only ballot and was declared the nominee. There were instituted against 238 of the delegates, regularly elected for Taft, contests on behalf of Roosevelt. These contests were avowedly instigated not for the purpose of really securing seats in the convention; not for the purpose of inducing evidence which would lead any respectable court to entertain the contests, but for the purpose of deceiving the public into the belief that Roosevelt had more votes than he really had, as the conventions and primaries were in progress for the selection of delegates. The 238 contests were reduced by abandonment, formal or in substance, to seventy-four. The very fact of these 164 frivolous contests itself reflects upon the genuineness and validity of the remainder."

Arguments Are Reviewed.
The resume then enumerates the contests and reviews the arguments in the contests embraced in the White House statement is certified to by Victor Rosewater, chairman of the National Committee, and Thomas H. Devine, chairman of the credentials committee.

The resume of contests for delegates at large and district delegates by states includes the following: In the Arizona convention there were ninety-three votes. All the delegates (six in number) were to be selected at large. The counties were entitled to select their delegates through their county committee or by primary. In one county, Maricopa, a majority of the committee decided to select its delegates, and a minority to have a primary. In other counties there were some contests and the State committee, following the usage of the National Committee, gave a hearing to all contestants in order to make up the temporary roll. There was a clear majority of the Taft delegates among the uncontested delegates. The committee made up the temporary roll. There was a clear majority of the Taft delegates among the uncontested delegates. The committee made up the temporary roll, and then there was a bolt, sixty-four remaining in the hall and twenty-five withdrawing therefrom. The case of the Taft majority was so clear that it is difficult to understand why a contest was made.

Question From California.
The Fourth Congressional District of California presented this question: Under the State law, the delegation, two from each district, was elected on a general ticket, a group of twenty-six. Each delegate might either express his presidential preference or agree to vote for the Presidential candidate receiving the highest number in the State. In the Fourth district on the Taft ticket expressed a preference for Taft, but did not agree to vote for the candidates having the highest State vote. These Taft delegates in the Fourth district received a majority of 200 more than the Roosevelt delegates in that district. The national call forbade any law or the acceptance of any law which prevented the election of delegates by districts. In other words, the call of the National Committee was at variance with the State law.

The State law sought to enforce the State unit rule, and required the whole twenty-six delegates to be voted for all over the State, assigning two to each district on the ticket to abide the state-wide election, while the Republican National Convention has insisted upon the unit of the district since 1880.

"That has been the party law. This convention recognized the party law and held it to be more binding than that of the State law, and allowed the two delegates who had received in the Fourth district a vote larger than their two opponents assigned to that district to become delegates to the convention. This was clearly lawful, for a State has no power to limit or control the basis of representation of a voluntary national party in a na-

tional convention. The fact that President Taft, by telegram, approved all the twenty-six delegates as representing him is said to be an estoppel against his claiming the election of two of these delegates in their Fourth district. What is there inconsistent in his approving the candidacy of all his delegates and the election of two of them? Why should he be thus estopped to claim that part of the law was inoperative because in conflict with the call of the convention? **The Result Was Legal.**

"The contest in Washington turned on the question whether the Taft delegates appointed by the County Committee in King county, in which Seattle is situated, were duly elected to the convention, or whether a primary, which was subsequently held, and at which Roosevelt delegates were elected, was properly called, so that its result was legal. Under the law the County Committee had the power to decide whether it would select the delegates directly or should call a primary. In some counties of the State one course was pursued, and in other counties the other. In King county the convention consisted of 250 men, the majority of whom were for Taft, and that majority acting through its executive committee, selected the Taft delegates to the State convention. Meantime, the City Council of Seattle had redistricted the city. It before had 250 precincts. Now, substantially, the same territory was divided up into 381 precincts. The chairman of the County Committee was a Roosevelt man. He had been given authority by general resolution to fill vacancies occurring in the committee. A general meeting of the committee had been held after the City Council had directed the redistricting of the city, in which it was resolved, the chairman not dissenting, that representatives could not be selected to fill the 381 new precincts until an election was held in September, 1912. Thereafter, and in spite of his conclusion, the chairman assumed the right by his appointment to add to the existing committee 131 precinct committeemen, and, with these voting in the committee, it is claimed that a primary was ordered. There was so much confusion in the meeting that this is doubtful. However, the fact is that the Taft men protested against action by committee so constituted, on the ground that the chairman had no authority to appoint the 131 new committeemen. They refused to take part in the primary, and so did the La Follette men. The newspapers reported the number of votes in the primary to be something over 3000. The Roosevelt committee showed by affidavit the number to be 6000 out of a usual total Republican vote of 75,000.

Beyond His Power.
The action of the chairman of the committee in attempting to add 131 precinct men to the old committee was, of course, beyond his power. The resolution authorizing him to fill vacancies, of course, applied only to those places which became vacant after they had been filled, and clearly did not apply to 131 new precincts. It could not, in the nature of things, apply to a change from the old system to a complete new system of precincts created by the City Council, because, if they were to be filled, the entire number of 381 new precincts different from the old must be filled. One system could not be made into the other by a mere additional appointment of 131 committeemen. No lawyer will say that such action by the committee thus constituted was legal. Therefore, the action which the law committee of 250 took in selecting Taft delegates, who made a majority in the State convention, was the only one which could be recognized as valid."

Delegates Chosen Too Late.
As an appendix, the statement carries in detail the vote in the national committee on each of the contests and a statement of the dates of the Taft and Roosevelt conventions in contested States. The object of the latter is to show that the Roosevelt delegates were chosen after the regular conventions had named Taft representatives.

Another appendix is the report of the credentials committee of the convention, in which the statement issued by the Roosevelt committeemen attacking the majority of the committee was answered. In discussing the charge, the report said:

"The statement as a whole in its insinuations of combination of unworthy motive, in its recital of alleged facts, is grossly and maliciously untrue. It was intended to convey the impression that the time for hearing cases was so limited as to prevent their being properly presented to the committee. The untruthfulness of this statement is clearly shown by the records of the committee and the newspaper reports of its deliberations. Not only did the rules make liberal provision for time in presenting the cases, but in every instance of which the parties presenting the cases, or any member of the committee, asked for an extension of time, it was granted."

The statement of the Roosevelt members of the committee asserted that the speed with which the credentials committee brought in reports "made it evident that the reports had been prepared beforehand." In reply to this statement the appendix to the White House statement said:

"In regard to the assertion that reports were prepared in advance of the action of the committee on credentials, no one of the gentlemen who make this statement will state of his own personal knowledge that any re-

ports were thus made."

Argued Fifteen Days.
In concluding, the majority of the credentials committee, defending its decisions, said:

"As to the merits of these contested cases upon which the committee passed, it should be remembered that the national committee sat for fifteen days hearing evidence and argument upon them. Out of a total membership of fifty-three, only thirteen members of that committee objected to the findings and decisions, and they only with regard to a part of the cases, the action of the committee having been unanimous with regard to a majority of them. The convention declined, by a substantial majority, to reverse the action of the national committee, and it referred the contested cases to the committee on credentials. When our committee met, rules were adopted by unanimous vote. No one desiring to make complaint as to the seating of any delegate was prevented from presenting his case. The committee even considered cases which had been decided by a unanimous vote of the national committee, notably the Indiana case."

"The committee on credentials of the Republican national convention consists of fifty-three members. The committee in every case sustained the decision of the national committee, and in no case by majorities of less than two-thirds. This statement of facts, indorsed by forty members of the committee, who listened patiently through all day and all night sessions to evidence and argument in order to be able to judge cases intelligently and pass upon them honestly, should be a sufficient answer to the reckless, unwarranted and untruthful assertions contained in the statement signed by eleven members of the committee, two of whom did not attend sessions of the committee, did not hear any of the evidence presented, and nearly all of whom indicated their bias by voting in every case for the delegates known to be favorable to Mr. Roosevelt, including numerous cases in which the action of the national committee had been unanimous for the Taft delegates."

As appendices the statement carried the majority and minority reports of the credentials committee on each of the contests.

W. C. WEEDON DIES SUDDENLY

Walter C. Weedon, secretary of treasurer of the Hawaiian Fiber Company and one of the oldest residents of the city, died yesterday noon after an illness of a week's duration. Pneumonia was the cause of his death.

Mr. Weedon who has taken a leading part during late years in the development of the Sisal industry was one of the oldest and best known business men in the city. Besides his interest in the Hawaiian Fiber Company, he carried on a real estate and insurance business and has done extensive work for the Hawaiian Promotion committee.

He was born in Middlesex, England in 1848 and in 1865 came to Honolulu. On January 25, 1870 he was married to Miss Ida Sloan and in 1871, with his wife, moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he was engaged in business for twenty years.

They returned to Hawaii in time for Mr. Weedon to take an active part in the revolution of 1893 when he served in the National guard as assistant quartermaster. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department for a number of years.

Mr. Weedon has always taken active part in religious work. He was an elder of the Christian Church, superintendent of the Sunday-school and was a charter member and at one time president of the Young Men's Christian Association.

He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Alexander G. Horn. No date as yet has been set for the funeral.

SECRETARY FISHER TRIES TO GET AWAY FOR HAWAII

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 29.—Secretary Fisher has been trying to get off to Hawaii for some time to investigate the fight over the governorship of that territory. Gov. Fear's term expired a year ago, and the fight for and against his renomination has been going on ever since. His friends and enemies have both been active. The president has held off from action until he could get a clear knowledge of the facts from first-hand sources. He asked Secretary Fisher to investigate the whole situation personally.

Mr. Fisher made a reservation to sail on the boat leaving San Francisco August 10, but has come to the conclusion that he will not be able to get away from here at that time owing to the presence of Congress, and has made another reservation for August 23. The secretary feels that he ought to stay in Washington while congress is here. He hopes, though, that Congress will adjourn in time to permit him to go to Hawaii on the 23rd.—Evening Star.

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